AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original)   A computerized valet parking system comprising:

a device for collecting a first set of valet parking data from a first valet attendant;

a camera for collecting a pre-parking image of a vehicle at an entrance location of a parking area; and

a computer for associating the pre-parking image to the first set of valet parking data to determine the condition of the vehicle before it was parked and an identification of the valet attendant who parked the vehicle.

2. (Original)   The parking system of claim 1 which comprises:

a first pre-parking camera focused on a front left region of the vehicle for generating a first pre-parking digital image;

a second pre-parking camera focused on a front right region of the vehicle for generating a second pre-parking digital image;

a third pre-parking camera focused on a rear right region of the vehicle for generating a third pre-parking digital image; and

a fourth pre-parking camera focused on a rear left region of the vehicle for generating a fourth pre-parking digital image.

3.   (Original)   The parking system of claim 1 further including:

a device for collecting a second set of valet parking data from a second valet attendant;

a second camera for collecting a post-parking image of the vehicle at an exit location of the parking area; and

whereby the post parking image can provide evidence that the vehicle was not damaged when returned to the driver.

4.   (Original)   The parking system of claim 3 wherein said computer further links the post-parking images and the second set of valet parking data to the pre-parking images and the first set of valet parking data.

5.   (Original)   The parking system of claim 3 wherein the second camera includes:

a first post-parking camera focused on a front left region of the vehicle for generating a first post-parking digital image;

a second post-parking camera focused on a front right region of the vehicle for generating a second post-parking digital image;

a third post-parking camera focused on a rear right region of the vehicle for generating a third post-parking digital image; and

a fourth post-parking camera focused on a rear left region of the vehicle for generating a fourth post-parking digital image.

6.   (Original)   A method of parking vehicles using a valet attendant, comprising:

collecting and storing a pre-parking image of a vehicle at an entrance location of a parking area;

collecting and storing a first set of valet parking data that includes information about the valet attendant parking the vehicle; and

fetching and outputting the stored information to generate a report containing the pre-parking image and the valet attendant who parked the car.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 6 further comprising:

requiring a valet attendant who is retrieving the vehicle from the parking area to enter a second set of valet parking data; and

analyzing the second set of parking data to assure that the valet attendant is authorized before allowing the vehicle to exit the parking area.

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 7 which further comprises:

collecting and storing a post-parking image of the vehicle before the vehicle is returned to the driver.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 8 which further comprises:

fetching stored data about the second set of valet parking data and post-parking image to generate a report about the condition of the vehicle when it was returned to the driver.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the report includes an identification of the valet attendant who returned the car to the driver.

11. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein there are multiple pre-parking images and multiple post-parking images of the vehicle.

12. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the first set of valet parking data is entered at a first kiosk, the second set of valet parking data is entered at a second kiosk, and the images are stored in digital format.

13. (Previously Presented) A computerized vehicle monitoring system comprising:

a device for collecting a first set of individual identification data;

a camera for collecting a pre-parking image of a vehicle at an entrance location of a parking area; and

a computer for associating the pre-parking image to the first set of individual identification data to determine the condition of the vehicle upon arrival and an identification of an individual driving the vehicle prior to it being parked.

14. (Previously Presented) The monitoring system of claim 13 which comprises:

a first pre-parking camera focused on a front left region of the vehicle for generating a first pre-parking digital image;

a second pre-parking camera focused on a front right region of the vehicle for generating a second pre-parking digital image;

a third pre-parking camera focused on a rear right region of the vehicle for generating a third pre-parking digital image; and

a fourth pre-parking camera focused on a rear left region of the vehicle for generating a fourth pre-parking digital image.

15.　(Previously Presented)　The monitoring system of claim 1 further including:

a device for collecting a second set of individual identification data;

a second camera for collecting a post-parking image of the vehicle at an exit location of the parking area; and

whereby the post parking image can be compared to the pre-parking image to determine when damage occurred to the vehicle.

16.　(Previously Presented)　The monitoring system of claim 15 wherein said computer further links the post-parking images and the second set of individual identification data to the pre-parking images and the first set of individual identification data.

17.　(Previously Presented)　The monitoring system of claim 15 wherein the second camera includes:

a first post-parking camera focused on a front left region of the vehicle for generating a first post-parking digital image;

a second post-parking camera focused on a front right region of the vehicle for generating a second post-parking digital image;

a third post-parking camera focused on a rear right region of the vehicle for generating a third post-parking digital image; and

a fourth post-parking camera focused on a rear left region of the vehicle for generating a fourth post-parking digital image.

18.   (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring vehicles, comprising:

collecting and storing a pre-parking image of a vehicle at an entrance location of a parking area;

collecting and storing a first set of individual identification data that includes information about an individual driving the vehicle prior to it being parked; and

fetching and outputting the stored information to generate a report containing the pre-parking image and the individual.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 further comprising:

requiring an individual who is retrieving the vehicle from the parking area to enter a second set of individual identification data; and

analyzing the second set of individual identification data to assure that the individual is authorized before allowing the vehicle to exit the parking area.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 which further comprises: collecting and storing a post-parking image of the vehicle before the vehicle is allowed to be retrieved from the parking area.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 which further comprises: fetching stored data about the second set of individual identification data and post-parking image to generate a report about the condition of the vehicle when it was retrieved from the parking area.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the report includes an identification of the individual who retrieved the vehicle.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein there are multiple pre-parking images and multiple post-parking images of the vehicle.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the first set of individual identification data is entered at a first kiosk, the second set of individual identification data is entered at a second kiosk, and the images are stored in digital format.

25.   (New) A system for detecting damage to a vehicle, comprising:

a device for collecting a first set of vehicle identification data;

a camera for collecting a first image of a vehicle at a first time;

a camera for collecting a second image of a vehicle at a second time; and

a computer for storing the first and second images along with the vehicle identification data in a manner sufficient to determine whether there has been a change in the condition of the vehicle between the first and second images.

26. (New) The system of Claim 25 wherein there are at least two cameras, one camera being located at a first location in a vehicle parking area and a second camera being located at a second location in the vehicle parking area.

27. (New) The system of Claim 26 wherein a first array of digital cameras is located at an entrance location to the vehicle parking area and a second array of digital cameras is located at an exit location of the parking area.

28. (New) The system of Claim 25 wherein the vehicle identification data includes one or more datum selected from the group of valet attendant data, make and model of the vehicle, license plate number, vehicle color and owner/driver name.

29. (New) A method for managing a computerized parking system, the method comprising:

linking at least one digital image of a vehicle to a first set of vehicle identification data in an electronic database, the digital image documenting a physical condition of the vehicle when the vehicle exits the parking area;

retrieving the digital images from the electronic database; and

determining whether damage occurred to the vehicle before or after the vehicle exited the parking area based on the digital images.